



Superintendent Weekly Note #1

I want to **THANK** everyone for a great start to the New Year. Without the time, effort, and dedication on behalf of every single individual the beginning of the year would not have been a **HUGE** success. I appreciate **ALL** that you do for the children of Russell Independent Schools! **Keep up the great work RUSSELL!!! Go Devils!**

Each week I will highlight some of our opening day themes:



RIS Mission: *Our mission is to inspire and empower all students to reach their maximum potential: **one student, one lesson, one day at a time.***

Things I CAN Control...

1. My **ATTITUDE**
2. My **EFFORT**
3. My **BEHAVIOR**
4. My **ACTIONS** to be a Great Team Member

*Continue to focus on the RIS four core beliefs:
It's about Kids! —Accountability—Transparency—Communication.*

Russell Primary School (From the desk of Mr. Cassity)

- RPS is off to a great start. As of Friday morning, we have 508 students enrolled in grades K-2! PTA has done it again. Our school is decorated perfectly for our theme: "Where the Adventure Begins." Students love the entire animal and nature themed decor. Our PTA rocks!

Russell-McDowell Intermediate (From the desk of Mrs. Wright)

- We have had an amazing first week of school! Faculty and Staff joined together to welcome our students to the "Neighborhood" and the Ashland Bus System helped us to carry out our theme with a Trolley Bus for the first day of school!
- Thursday was a record day for us with all students getting picked up on time and on the right bus! I can't remember that ever happening the first week of school!
- Mrs. Arbogast was awarded a grant through Donors Choose for additional flexible seating in her classroom!
- Mr. Jordan presented our STEAM program at the IFL Conference this summer and was asked to present at the KASC Conference in September!
- We successfully welcomed new students, faculty, and staff to our R-MIS family. We are going to have a great year!

Russell Middle School (From the desk of Mr. Moore)

- RMS Students and Staff are finding their "SPARK"- Spark is what we get excited about.
- Students and parents did a fabulous job of getting back into the swing of school.
- RMS won the Attendance Banner for 2017-2018 School Year. We had over 96% attendance.
- Students are already involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Russell High School (From the desk of Mrs. Chaffin)

- RHS had a wonderful start to the school year thanks to our faculty, staff, and students. Teachers were challenged to "Think like a rookie."
- Mrs. Lynd did a fantastic job with her Opening Day challenge to "Stay Positive".
- Boys' soccer team defeated West Carter 3-2.
- Girls' volleyball defeated Boyd Co., Holy Family, and the Kittens of Paul Blazer.
- Enrollment is at 669.

Russell Area Technology Center (From the desk of Mrs. S. Thompson)

- Our staff enjoyed a couple of days together in training this week! So very glad to have everyone back in the building after a safe, restful summer!!!
- Our students have arrived and we are so glad to have them back! Our RHS Counselors have worked diligently to change and finalize schedules, so that our students can take as many classes as possible with us!
- Safety trainings are underway here in our school and technical classes! We had our first fire drill and our staff & students did an amazing job!

Russell Preschool (From the desk of Mrs. Staton)

"Words are powerful. They can inspire, encourage, appreciate, heal, and turn the impossible into the possible. One word will give you clarity and focus." Preschool Staff have worked together using Jon Gordon's book *One Word That Will Change Your Life*, to find a focus word for Preschool for this year. Staff members will have their own personal word to focus on for this year too.

We have some openings available in our tuition-based program. If you are interested, contact Mrs. Staton at 836-0007.

What's happening at central office / district this week?

- **August Board of Education Meeting**—Monday, August 27 at 6:00 PM in the Central Office board room. **This is an open meeting and a great opportunity to learn what is going on in the district. Great leadership opportunity!**

Thank you for a great opening and great first week!!!! It's a great day to be a Red Devil! Have a great week Russell!

--Sean